

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8013

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0807

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

MONROVIA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. SUMMARY: DURING LUNCHEON WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY CHARLES TIBONE, CHARGE' RECEIVED INITIAL REACTION TO SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. TIBONE WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT GOOD EFFECTS OF THE SPEECH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON SMITH. HE ALSO SPENT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION DISCUSSING THE SEVENTH ELEMENT OF THE TEN-POINT POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR BOTSWANA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A REGULAR INFORMAL LUNCHEON WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY CHARLES TIBONE, MAJOR SUBJECT TO THE VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WAS THE SECRETARY'S SOUTHERN AFRICA
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TRIP AND HIS LUSAKA SPEECH IN PARTICULAR. TIBONE FOUND THE

LUSAKA SPEECH TO BE VERY POSITIVE IN TONE AND THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE THOUGHT PARTICULARLY THAT ANY IDEAS BY SMITH OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE WOULD NOW BE LAID TO REST. HE MENTIONED KAUNDA'S HEARTFELT REMARKS FOLLOWING THE SPEECH AND DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH KAUNDA'S REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA ALSO "ACCEPTING" THE PROGRAM.

3. HAVING SAID THAT, HE INTRODUCED HIS NEXT REMARKS BY SAYING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE BOTSWANA CONTEXT. RECOGNIZING THE GREAT OVERALL VALUE OF THE TEN-POINT POLICY, HE WONDERED WHAT THE EFFECT OF THE SEVENTH ELEMENT WOULD BE FOR BOTSWANA. TIBONE RECALLED THAT BOTSWANA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO BRING AN END TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND WANTED TO DO ALL IT COULD TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL. HE ALSO RECALLED PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT IN WHICH THE POINT HAD BEEN MADE THAT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA WOULD BE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO CAUSE THE CLOSURE OF THE RHODESIAN RAILWAY IN BOTSWANA WITH GREAT IMPACT ON THE BOTSWANA ECONOMY.

4. TIBONE WENT ON TO SAY THAT MAJOR INCREASES IN FOREIGN AID WOULD BE NEEDED TO OFFSET THOSE CONSEQUENCES. HE REFERRED TO A CANADIAN STUDY WHICH INDICATED THAT \$70 MILLION AND FIVE HUNDRED EXPATRIATE EXPERTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE RAILROAD IN BOTSWANA IN THE ABSENCE OF RHODESIAN PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THIS INPUT WOULD BE OF LITTLE VALUE IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO COOPERATE SINCE BOTSWANA CARGO MUST RELY ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAILROAD SYSTEM BEYOND BOTSWANA'S BORDERS.

5. COMMENT: TIBONE'S CONCERN APPEARED TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF DISCUSSION AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, IT WAS GIVEN AS A PERSONAL CONSIDERATION IN AN UNOFFICIAL SETTING AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE A PRESENTATION OF VIEWS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA.

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